more than 3 million sq. km. area, two mine sites, each of an area of 15, 000 sq. km., have been identified. India has already filed an application with the Preparatory Commission of the International Seabed Authority for the registration of a pioneer area in the Indian Ocean.

Air travel facilities to the Hajis from Jammu and Kashmir

2733. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hajis from Jammu and Kashmir have to change flights from Delhi or Bombay for Jeddah; and

(b) whether Government propose to arrange direct flights for the Hajis from Kashmir to Jeddah?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to capacity constraints of Air India, there are no plans at present to arrange direct flights for Hajis between Kashmir and Jeddah.

Indians in Pak jails

2734. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the number of Indian citizens who are in Pakistan jails at present and the number amongst them belonging to the Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): There are around 700 Indian detenues in Pakistani jails, Out of them, about 81 detenues are from Jammu and Kashmir.

Liberalised policy for import

2735. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news items which appeared in the "Times of India" dated 5th August, 1985 regarding scientists' expressions over the likely adverse impact of the liberalised import policy of goods and technology on indigenous industry and capital equipments and Research and Development Institutions like the CSIR; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Import of technology and equipment continue to be selective taking note of the capabilities for new advances by our Institutions within a time frame and noting the imperatives for rapid improvements in quality and costs of end products with a view to ensuring that benefits flow to all people. Wherever comparable indigenous technology is available imports have not been allowed. Utilisation of indigenously developed technology is steadily improving and units based on indigenous technology are continuing to operate successfully.

Science and Technology Institutions in the country have a very important role to play in assisting in improvements and in producing new technologies appropriate to the present and future needs. Planning of research is being strengthened by close involvement of Government departments and users in Industry.

Circulation of book justifying assassination of Mahatma Gandhi

2736. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gandhi Memorial Museum, Madurai has circulated through its library a book which justifies the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and supports the cult of violence; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) The facts are being ascertained from the Government of Tamil Nadu and will be laid on the table of the House as soon as received.

Conference on the exploitation of Indian Ocean resources

2737. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is not joining the conference on the exploitation of Indian Ocean resources;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the names of other non-aligned countries which are joining this conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. India did not participate in the conference held in Colombo from 15th to 20th July, 1985 on Economic Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the Indian Ocean in the field of Marine Affairs in the context of the new Ocean regime.

(b) The Government of India is of the view that any conference in the vital field of marine affairs relating to the Indian Ocean has to be carefully prepared in terms of the objectives which have to be defined through an extensive process of consultations particularly of all the littoral states of the region. It would not be possible for a Conference to be successful without the development of consensus, based on such consultations. At the moment, the main priority has necessarily to be on efforts at achieving the convening of the Conference on the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. This Conference is of Prime importance. Nothing should be done which could result in a setback to this main objective.

(c) The names of the Non-aligned countries which attended the July meeting are Bangladesh, Bhutan, Comores, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia (Observer) Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Somalia, Srilanka, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Revision of pay in the ITDC

2738. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the majority unions in the India Tourism Development Corporation is interested to follow government's guidelines for revision of pay but the India Tourism Development Corporation Management is using puppet unions to violate these guidelines with the motive of delaying or evading pay revision of its non-HCE employees at the cost of industrial peace and harmony;

(b) if not, what progress has been made so far to settle the wage of non-HCE employees;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a proposal based on Government's guidelines for revision of pay of the executive of India Tourism Development Corporation has already been referred to Government for their approval; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the proposal together with the percentage wage-hike proposed to each category and the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) ITDC sought views from individual employees on revision of wages of non-HCE employees in the Corporation.